

Duxbury Clipper

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First Parish Continues Tradition with Country's Oldest Summer Fair

By BONNIE JERNIGAN

"Imagine an August day in 1851," said Jim Hamilton. "Scores of Duxbury residents are drawn to First Parish Church for a summer fair. Entire families arrive and plan on spending the day searching for treasures among the homemade items."

As the chairperson of this year's summer fair at First Parish Church, coming up this Saturday, June 17, from 9 am to 3 pm, Hamilton enjoys looking back and knowing that he is helping sustain a South Shore



The First Parish summer fair kicks off on June 17.

tradition. One hundred and fifty years after the first summer fair at First Parish, families still flock to the church lawn, looking for bargains, entertainment and food. Indeed, the church has laid claim to having the oldest continuing summer fair in the country—a claim that no one has challenged to date.

The fair began as a fundraiser for a new church organ, according to First Parish Minister Robbie Walsh. Walsh found notes from a January 6, 1851 meeting of the Ladies,

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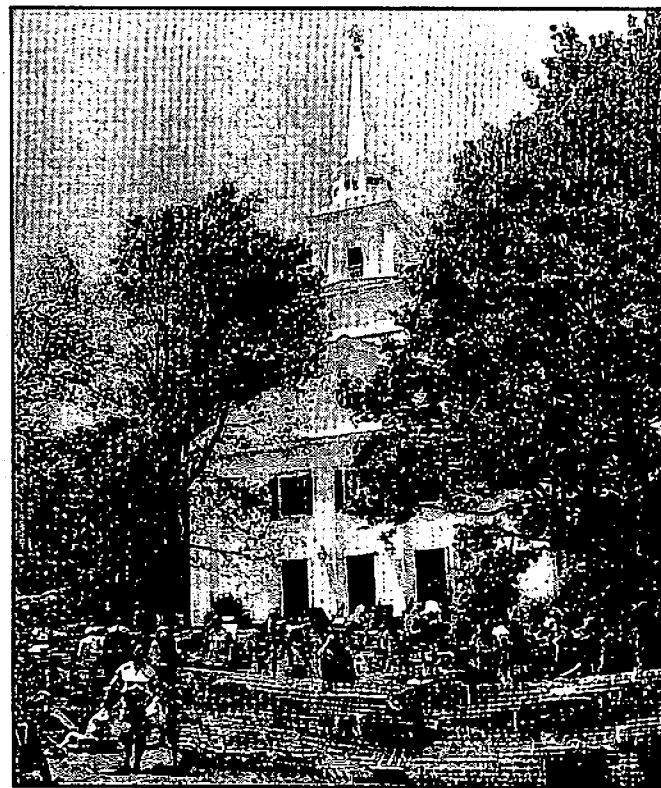


Hundreds of people enjoyed the fair.



David Wells made his famous barbecued beef.

**First
Parish
Fair**



Weather cooperated for First Parish Fair.



Hardcover titles went fast.



Barbara Allison Davidson manned the art booth.



Great treasures were found on the sale tables.



Jack Hill supervises the strawberry shortcake table.



Abigail Smith entertained on violin.



Kyra Traeberg entertained on cello.